



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

GODDARD, H. H. *Feeble-Mindedness. Its Causes and Consequences.* Pp. xii, 559. Price \$5. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

Under the far-sighted leadership of its superintendent, Edward R. Johnstone, the Training School for Feeble-Minded Girls and Boys at Vineland, N. J., has become widely known as a place where the children are studied as well as cared for. This research work has been conducted by the author and his assistants. The 327 cases described in this volume are those studied. They represent, we are told, all ages and grades. So far as possible the homes have been visited and all the available facts concerning them and their background secured.

In the first chapter on social problems Dr. Goddard shows the growing evidence that much of the problems of poverty, crime, prostitution, etc., are due to mental defects. Then he tells how the investigations were conducted and considers the reliability of the data secured in the second chapter. It is interesting to note that the reinvestigations required in some cases usually resulted in the discovery of additional cases of feeble-mindedness.

In chapters III and IV (pages 47 to 465) a brief description of each case is given. The material is grouped in accordance with the probable cause of the defect. In 164 families the defect was "*certainly* hereditary." In 34 others this is so probable that the section is called "*probably* hereditary." Thirty-seven families showed decidedly neuropathic conditions without direct evidence of heredity. In 57 families accident or disease seems to have been the cause. In 8 cases the record was so good that no cause could be discovered while so little could be learned of 27 families that they are not counted in the percentages. These two chapters are of the utmost value. Family charts are presented, the children's portraits are reproduced, and one not familiar with such cases gets much information concerning them.

In chapter V the author studies the causes and concludes that heredity is by all means the most important. Only 4.6 per cent of the cases can be attributed to accidents before birth, if the "Mongolians" a most puzzling class coming largely from normal families be excepted. These form 3.6 per cent of the total and apparently are cases of arrested development. Ten and six-tenths per cent are assigned to causes acting after birth and half of these are attributed to meningitis. The data offer "*practically no evidence of the spontaneous origin of hereditary feeble-mindedness.*" Much attention is paid to the possible influence of alcohol. The conclusion reached is that "*alcoholism itself is only a symptom.*" Nor can any relation be established between such diseases as tuberculosis and syphilis and feeble-mindedness.

In chapters VI and VII the author considers the possibility of feeble-mindedness and normal-mindedness being unit characters and presenting the phenomena known to students of biology as "*Mendelian.*" Dr. Goddard reaches the conclusion in spite of a confessed prejudice to the contrary that "*normal-mindedness is, or at least behaves like, a unit character.*" As evidence, he shows that of 324 matings with a total of 1,752 children "*the expectation would be feeble-minded, 704, the actual is 708; normal, expectation 352, actual 346.*"

Eugenics is briefly discussed in ten pages with rather negative conclusions. Dr. Goddard believes in colonization and is far from hostile to the suggestion of sterilization, but feels that either or both will fail to solve the question. Apparently his studies have shown him so many feeble-minded in the community that he simply gives up any idea of solution at present. This is made clearer in the last chapter "Practical Applications." They must be cared for, reproduction surely must be discouraged, better training must be given and our knowledge increased. With what result? The one suggested is that we "may find use for these people of moderate intelligence—who are able and willing to do much of the drudgery of the world, which other people will not do." Just what effect this attitude would have upon ideals of democracy or religion the author does not discuss.

In spite of this curious final attitude the author has given us, whether medical experts or laymen, one of the most important volumes yet written on the subject.

CARL KELSEY.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

GORDON, ERNEST. *The Anti-Alcohol Movement in Europe.* Pp. 333. Price, \$1.50. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1913.

This book can hardly be called a scientific work; it is rather in the publisher's words "a weapon for the conflict in America." It is an arsenal of "facts" selected without critical judgment. The chief value of such a book is a fairly accurate picture of the prohibition movement in Europe; and it gains in interest by virtue of the recent Russian ukase against alcohol, a similar proclamation in Polish Prussia by the Kaiser, and Secretary Daniels' taboo on alcohol in our own Navy. The book has one supreme purpose: national prohibition. The result is apparent in the author's absolute inability to see anything grey: all is either black or white. Hence the tendency to indulge in opprobrious terms; for instance he speaks of "the pro-alcohol pedants on the Committee of Fifty;" Duclaux is called "fanatical;" August Palm is treated to condescending and gratuitous insult. American social workers, *The Survey*, and college graduates in general are insulted because of their indifference to the alcohol question.

From the standpoint of facts the book cannot pass unchallenged. For illustration no one can dogmatize with absolute assurance about the medical value of alcohol. No author can dismiss expert opinion as to the digestive value of alcohol quite so cavalierly and still claim scientific fairmindedness. And no citation of cranial statistics is worth much as an evidence of degeneration. Neither are we prepared to believe that alcoholisation is wholly responsible for valuable lands lying fallow in Normandy. Nor that tree planting along roadways is impossible in the Lierre district of Belgium because drunkards habitually break them down! Moreover the evidence that alcohol and not lead or phosphorus is responsible for so-called lead or phosphorus poisoning is anything but convincing. Again, the pages of horrible examples cited to prove the "devastation which beer-drinking works" in Bremen are